

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03455 161507Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 CPR-02 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8401

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 3455

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, PORT, PDIP, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN-US BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF: STATE 145815

1. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT MENTIONED
PARA 1 REFTEL NOR SARG REPLY TO OUR RECENT DIPLOMATIC
NOTE ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH QUESTION OF BILATERAL
CONSULAR RELATIONS.

2. EMBASSY OPENED DIALOGUE WITH MFA SUMMER OF 1977 ON
INSTITUTING MORE LIBERAL RECIPROCAL POLICY WITH REGARD
TO VISA VALIDITY AND FEES. ONLY OFFICIAL RESPONSE WE
HAVE RECEIVED IS MFA NOTE STATING THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN
REFERRED TO MINOF INTERIOR PASSPORT OFFICE FOR STUDY.
WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED UNOFFICIALLY THAT PASSPORT OFFICE IS
LESS ANXIOUS TO SEE MORE LIBERAL POLICY THAN MFA. OUR MFA
CONTACT FEELS THAT INTERIOR WOULD BE MORE WILLING TO
IMPLEMENT MORE LIBERAL POLICY IF MADE PART OF BILATERAL
AGREEMENT. MANY VISITORS TO SYRIA ARE ADMITTED ON BASIS
OF VISA GRANTED AT POE'S BY PASSPORT OFFICE OFFICIALS.
ALL OTHERS RECEIVE VISAS AT SYRIAN EMBASSIES WHICH
FOLLOWS PASSPORT/INTERIOR INSTRUCTIONS ON VISA ISSUANCE.

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3. WHILE VISA SCHEDULE AS PART OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT
WOULD NOT PROVIDE MUCH FLEXIBILITY OVER LONG TERM, IT
MIGHT BE GUARANTEE AGAINST CAPRICIOUS CHANGES AND
INCONSISTENT TREATMENT BY DIFFERENT OFFICES AND EMBASSIES.
UNTIL WE RECEIVE MFA REPLY TO OUR NOTE, WE ASSUME THAT
NEW VISA SCHEDULE AS PART OF BILATERAL IS PREFERRED
SYRIAN APPROACH. SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT ON

THIS ASSUMPTION WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

PELLETREAU

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